

Make no mistake: Israel is our ally and friend. The administration needs to confirm that fact with its words and deeds.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Congress is on the brink of passing comprehensive health care reform to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable and high quality care, health care that protects consumers and not just insurance companies. We need reform to rein in these companies and to hold them accountable for discriminatory and inhumane practices, policies like gender rating that force women to pay higher premiums than men just because we are women, and denials for preexisting conditions that can even include a history of domestic violence.

We need reform to change the practice of insurance companies denying children with preexisting conditions or dropping someone's coverage if that person falls ill. We can't put it off. We can't wait. If we do nothing, in 30 years, one out of every \$3 will be spent on health care. If we fail, families will see spending on premiums and out-of-pocket costs jump 34 percent in 5 years and 79 percent in 10.

The American people not only want reform, they need reform. They are asking for reform. We made a promise to the American people to pass health care reform. It's time to keep our promise. It's time to get this done, and it's time to pass health care reform.

#### NO TRUER FRIEND THAN ISRAEL

(Mr. JORDAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, America has no truer friend than Israel. We stand together on freedom, on democracy, and on security. More importantly, America and Israel share the unique ability to trace our roots back to the hopes and dreams of our ancestors. Even before the days of King David and King Solomon, Israel has been the center of the Jewish tradition. Israel is a sovereign nation surrounded by sworn enemies determined to wipe it off the map. Yet Israel remains committed to freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned about the recent counterproductive statements made by the administration that threaten to undermine America's 60-year relationship with Israel. Criticizing Israel for developing its land in Jerusalem is just plain wrong. Directing public demands and unilateral deadlines with Israel while Iran continues its pursuit of nuclear weapons is beyond wrong. It is dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, if America is to be a superpower, we must remain steadfast

when the political winds blow. If America is to lead the world, we must act as a true friend to our ally, the nation of Israel.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a physician out of concern for my Republican colleagues, many of whom seem to be suffering from chronic amnesia or chronic ignorance. When we started talking about the possibility of using this "deem and pass" procedure to finish the job on health care reform, Republicans couldn't run fast enough to find a television camera to complain. Fact check: This procedure has been widely used since the 1930s and was, in fact, used no fewer than 202 times under Speakers Gingrich and Hastert, amounting to 30 percent of the rules put forth by the committees under their leadership.

All this hypocrisy is kind of galling. I hope my Republicans can recover from this amnesia in time to watch the Congress pass a bill that the American people need and want. They do not like the health care system that is in this country. They want reform, and we are going to give it to them.

#### PATH TO CONFLICT

(Mr. McCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my great concern over the recent statements by administration officials regarding Israeli housing construction in that nation's capital city. History warns us that appeasement of mutual enemies is the surest way to destroy alliances and to invite aggression. And yet the rhetoric of this administration is taking us down this dangerous road. Israel has every right to allow construction in its capital city and throughout the West Bank, over which it exercises rightful sovereignty.

The administration seems to have forgotten that Jordan attacked Israel in 1967, not the other way around, and the result was the Israeli acquisition of this land. The Israelis haven't forgotten that, nor have they forgotten the folly of unilaterally giving up the Gaza Strip from which rockets are now routinely launched against Israeli citizens. Imagine the danger to Israel's capital by repeating that mistake in east Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, appeasement all but guarantees an escalation of conflict.

#### AIDS/HIV

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the HIV-

AIDS epidemic in African-American communities. While African Americans are 12 percent of the United States population, approximately 50 percent of HIV-AIDS patients nationwide are black. Just over the the last 6 months, 452 new cases of HIV were reported in Los Angeles County alone. Our prevention strategy is clearly not working for many of our constituents. That is why I support H.R. 1964, the National Black Clergy for the Elimination of HIV-AIDS Act. They sit up on our right in our gallery, and I welcome them here.

This bill seeks to expand and increase programs for HIV education, prevention, testing, care, and treatment in ways that are responsive to the needs of African-American communities. Moreover, this bill recognizes how important faith-based outreach is.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker reminds Members that it is against the rules to refer to guests in the gallery.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, over months of debate over the government takeover of health care, a growing list of terms created by the Democrats have been added to the American lexicon, terms such as "Cornhusker kickback," "Louisiana purchase," "Gator aid," the "doc fix," "reconciliation," "nuclear option," "taxpayer-funded abortions," and now worst of all, "deeming a bill passed," "self-executing" and the "Slaughter solution."

The Democrat House members carp that the American people don't care about the process. After speaking to thousands of Americans about this—not only do they absolutely hate this bill 3 to 1 and feel it will damage America forever, they feel the Democrat Party's arrogance of power is unprecedented in American history.

Mr. Speaker, process does matter, especially when Members of Congress and a President get themselves elected to power on the promise of transparency and ethics, and then stoop to a system of bribes and creative parliamentary procedures to ram through a government takeover of one-sixth of the economy, health care, merely to advance their ideology of incremental socialism, which is strongly opposed by the American people.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, it's March. That means March madness. Normally it means hoops and basketball, but, no,